

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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TOPIC Soviet Troops in Neuruppin

EVALUATION

see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 18 August to 1 September 1951

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Date prepared

21 September 1951

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PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 28 August 1951, the See Kaserne in Neuruppin (N 53°2'49") quartered about 2,400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. (1) A unit, which was unloaded at the Neuruppin railroad station and moved to the See Kaserne on 18 August, consisted of about 150 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia, and were equipped with 12 x 76-mm artillery pieces

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units with a total of 12 officers, and about 60 men per unit with red-bordered black epaulets left the installation toward Wittstockerallee on the same day. The troops carried field equipment.

2. On 28 August, the girls' school on Neustederstrasse quartered about 400 troops, including about 80 percent recruits, who wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with supply insignia. Eight units, each of about 20 soldiers with field equipment, marched out of the installation toward Penzlin on 24 August.

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3. On 28 August, the Friedrich Franz Kaserne was occupied by about 2,800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia. Crews of 6 to 10 soldiers were seen drilling with four 122-mm artillery pieces in the barracks yard on 25 August. Four units, each of about 60 soldiers with rifles and gas masks, were seen leaving the installation for the firing range on Wittstockerallee.

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4. On 28 August, the "Friedericus" Kaserne quartered about 5,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. Troops who left the installation on 26 August, marching toward Altruppin, included 10 units, each of about 40 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia, and 1 unit of 62 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with supply insignia, and about 10 officers.

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5. Three units which left the Friedrich Franz Kaserne on 25 August totaled 48 officers and about 1,800 EM who wore red-bordered black epaulets, carried carbines and wore gas masks. The gas masks were connected with a bag on the left hip by a hose. The units marched to the military post drill field east of Storbeck via Kraenzlin-Wahlendorf-Gross Woltersdorf-Woltersdorfbau-Waisenkrug. The distance from 1 km east of Kraenzlin as far as Waisenkrug was marched at double time. The spaces between the units grew considerably during the period of the forced march. The units resumed close ranks on the road from Waisenkrug toward Kuhburgberg and continued marching at a normal rate, with the troops wearing their gas masks. (4)

6. An undetermined number of troops from the Friedrich Franz Kaserne were entrained on 1 September and left toward Neustadt. The troops wore red-bordered black

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(1) Same source last reported that the See Kaserne was occupied beyond capacity by about 1,800 troops. The estimate of 2,400 troops given in the present report appears even more unlikely, as reports of the last months mentioned an average occupation of only 1,000 to 1,200 troops.

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(2) This train was probably one of the two trains which were dispatched from Jüterbog to Neuruppin on 17 August 1951.

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(3) The occupation of the girls' school appears to have remained unchanged since the last report by the same source. Courses of instruction and a transport unit of the 12th Cds Tank Div are believed to be located there.

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(4) [redacted] stated that the Friedrich Franz Kaserne was occupied substantially beyond capacity by 2,500 troops, whereas other [redacted] mentioned estimated an average of 1,400 troops there.

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[redacted]. Gas-defense training has also been observed at several training grounds in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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(5) The occupation of the Fridericus Kaserne has apparently not changed since the last report.

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